

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-01 DHA-02 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SP-02 /055 W
-----063600 032241Z /66

R 031420Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7576
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF AMERICANS OF ARAB DESCENT AT ISRAELI
BORDERS

1. THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT JERUSALEM RECENTLY REQUESTED
THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE TREATMENT OF TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS OF ARAB DESCENT
WHO CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN MISTREATED UPON CROSSING THE
ALLENBY BRIDGE. WE TOOK UP THEIR COMPLAINTS WITH THE
MFA WHICH INVESTIGATED THEIR CASES AND HAS NOW INFORMED
US THAT IN ITS OPINION THE TREATMENT GIVEN THE TWO
CITIZENS WAS NOT OUT OF THE ORDINARY; THE TWO HAD
COMPLAINED OF BEING DELAYED AND HUMILIATED BY
THE SEARCH OF THEIR PERSONS AND THEIR BELONGINGS. THE
MINISTRY SAID THAT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT ISRAEL
IS STILL AT A STATE OF WAR WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND
THAT THE SEARCH TO WHICH TRAVELERS ARE SUBJECTED UPON
CROSSING THE ALLENBY BRIDGE IS JUSTIFIED, IN THEIR
OPINION, BY THE FINDINGS OF WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVE
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MATERIALS IN AMOUNTS WHICH WARRANT CONTINUATION OF
THE SEARCHES OF ALL TRAVELERS. THE AUTHORITIES
POINTED OUT THAT THE PROCEDURES IN THESE TWO
CASES DID NOT GO BEYOND THE NORMAL SEARCH PROCEDURES
AND REMINDED US THAT MOST OF THE RECENT CASES
INVOLVING ATTEMPTS TO SMUGGLE MATERIALS INTO
ISRAEL HAVE INVOLVED BEARERS OF FOREIGN PASSPORTS.

2. BY COINCIDENCE THE JERUSALEM POST OF AUGUST 2 CARRIED A LETTER VOICING A SIMILAR COMPLAINT BY AN ISRAELI ARAB WHO ARRIVED WITH HIS U.S. CITIZEN WIFE AND WAS SUBJECTED TO THE STRENUOUS SECURITY PROCEDURES AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT. THE POST PRINTED HIS LETTER AND THE RESPONSE BY BEN GURION'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER WHO SAID THAT THE TRAVELER HAD UNDERGONE THE REGULAR SECURITY CHECK. SHE ADDED: "TO OUR GREAT REGRET, THE SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND THE POLITICAL POSITION OF OUR COUNTRY NECESSITATE CAREFUL CHECKS OF CERTAIN PASSENGERS UPON ARRIVAL. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE CHECKS IS TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE."

3. WE NOTE THESE INSTANCES IN ORDER TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT AND POSTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES THAT EVEN DURING THIS SEASON OF GREAT TOURIST ACTIVITY, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SHOW NO INTENTION OF RELAXING THE SECURITY MEASURES WHICH THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, SECURITY CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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